From: Sid Sidner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 11:12am

7 December 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial AttorneySuite 1200, Antitrust DivisionDepartment of Justice601 D Street NWWashington, DC 20530
Dear Ms. Hesse:

I wish to comment on the proposed penalties in the Microsoft vs. Department of Justice case.

I have been a computer software engineer for over 30 years. I use all of Microsofts products and have developed sophisticated banking and electronic payment applications that are sold worldwide, designed to using Microsoft Windows server operating system and associated database and Web software. I also have extensive experience with Unix and IBM mainframes.

I lived through the era of the IBM monopoly on computer systems, when I watched innovation in hardware, software, and systems grind to nearly a standstill. I have watched with dismay the same process starting to occur again, courtesy of Microsoft.

Microsoft has been found to maintain monopolistic practices. What is at issue is what remediation can be obtained for this past practice and what can be done to prevent damage in the future.

The very future of computer technology is at stake here. The United States is the world leader in computer technology and much of our prosperity of the last ten years is based on this. Even in the area of biology and medical research, computers are becoming critical to further advances in genomics and diagnostic equipment.

Based on my technology and business experience, the following three remedies seem simple, practical and effective:

   The bundling of Microsoft software with personal computers should be terminated, and replaced with realistic pricing of this software as an extra-cost option, allowing third-party operating systems (like Linux) and applications (like Lotus SmartSuite) to compete;
   Microsoft must publish the file formats used by its software with each release of the software, similar to the way they publish application programming interfaces (APIs), allowing third-party applications the ability to interoperate with Microsoft applications;
   Likewise, computer-to-computer networking protocols must be published when software is released, again to allow non-Microsoft systems to interact with Microsoft systems.

None of these remedies are burdensome or expensive to Microsoft.

Please reconsider the proposed settlement to include these remedies.

Thank you,
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